



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

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Memorandum Agenda Changes/Supplemental Packet

TO: MAYOR WYTHE AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JO JOHNSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

DATE: APRIL 27, 2015

SUBJECT: AGENDA CHANGES AND SUPPLEMENTAL PACKET

VISITORS

PARC Needs Assessment PowerPoint Presentation **Page 3**

Linda Anderson, Lobbyist, Anderson Group, LLC

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City of Homer Financial Report Through March 31, 2015 **Page 25**

Memorandum 15-058 from Public Works Director, Re: Spit Camp Fee Collection Building **Page 29**

Memorandum 15-059 from Public Works Director, Re: Mental Health Land Trust – Spit Property Purchase **Page 31**

Re Re-envisioning the Homer Public Library's Western Lot **Page 37**

Press Release, Circle Hook Sculpture **Page 39**

RECOMMENDATION:

Voice consensus to changes under Agenda Approval.

Fiscal Note: N/A

Homer Parks, Art, Culture and Recreation Needs Assessment

City Council Summary
04.27.15

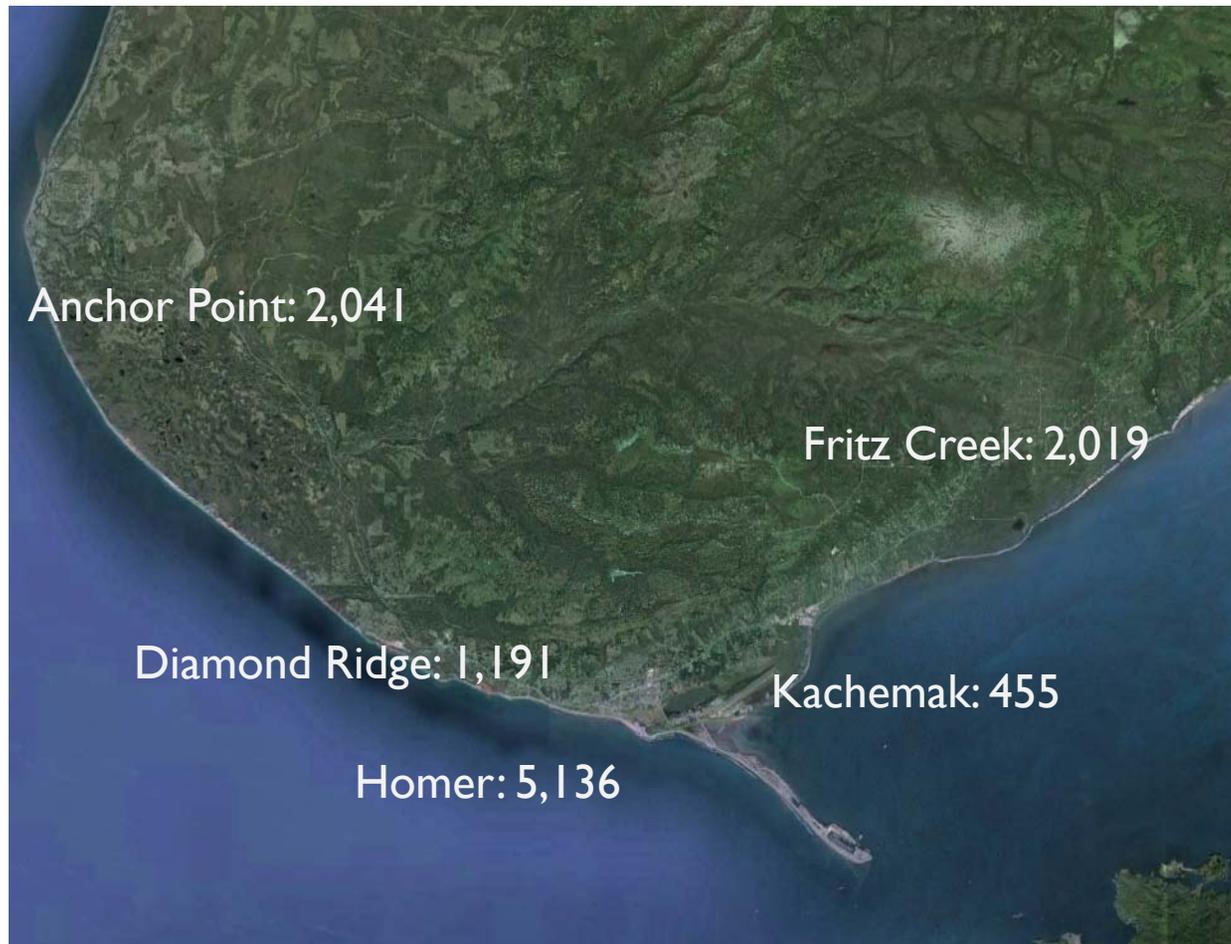


Project Goal

Determine the resources and prioritize the needs for the community of Homer concerning parks, arts, recreation and culture facilities and programs with a 10-15 year outlook.

Needs Assessment Study Area

2013 Population 10,842



Sources: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and U.S. Census Bureau

PARC Committee

Name	Affiliation
Gail Edgerly	Homer Council on the Arts (HCOA)
Matt Steffy	Parks and Recreation Commission
Jan Rumble	Homer Hockey
Corbin Arno	Business Community, Resident, Motorized Sports
Megan Murphy	MAPP of the Southern Kenai Peninsula
Kate Crowley	ReCreate Rec
Asia Freeman	Bunnell Arts Center
Mike Illg	City of Homer Community Recreation Coordinator
Karin Marks	Business Community

Needs Assessment Process

Fall 2014: Discovery

- Learn about the universe of PARC amenities in Homer.

Winter 2014-2015: Analysis

- Gap analysis of what Homer has and needs/wants, summary of financial and organizational implications.

Spring 2015: Report

- Release report for public review.

Answer the questions:

1. What are the existing and potential PARC resources in our community?
2. Which programs and facilities does the Community want?
3. How big is the gap between what we have, and what we want?
4. What are future trends?
5. How important are PARC activities to Homer's quality of life?
6. How can new programs and facilities be funded?

I. What are the existing and potential PARC resources in our community?

- **Indoor Facilities:** most existing community spaces are used near or at capacity. Indoor space needs are a priority.
- **Outdoor Facilities:** variety of well-used existing facilities, some need maintenance, repair, expansion. Few new needs.
- **Activities, Events, Programming:** variety of resources, needs focused on more winter activities and indoor space management.
- **Management and Communication:** good existing capacity, need for more coordination among providers.

2. Which programs and facilities does the Community want?

Programs:

- More indoor options
- Multi-generational (for parents and toddlers, for mentally and physical disabled older people, for seniors)
- Short courses/workshops (\leq one day)
- Various specific classes/activities

2. Which programs and facilities does the Community want?

Facilities:

- Multi-purpose community center for a variety of indoor activities/uses.
 - Keep HERC open to help meet indoor space needs as interim facility.
- Stabilize financial future of Kevin Bell Ice Arena.
- Complete upgrades and deferred maintenance to existing community indoor and outdoor recreational and cultural facilities.

3. How big is the gap between what we have and what we want?

- **Smaller gaps:** A number of identified needs can be met with existing facilities and through existing providers (especially programming and activities).
- **Larger gaps:** Plan for identified needs that involve large capital investments, coordination, etc. and make the most of existing resources in the interim.

4. What are future trends?

- Senior population is growing and expected to continue growing.
- Youth population trends are less clear (decrease in Homer, increase in KPB, Homer mini-baby boom in past 3 years).
- Stable to increasing participation for most local recreation and culture providers:
 - Outdoor activities continue to be popular.
 - Indoor activities also popular but possibly constrained by space needs.

5. How important are PARC activities to Homer's quality of life?

How important are the availability of recreation and culture activities to you and your immediate family and friends?

Response	Percent	Number
Very important	43.6%	113
Important	15.7%	41
Somewhat important	24.3%	63
Not very important	7.1%	18
Not at all important	8.7%	23
Not sure.	0.6%	2

Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Public Opinion Survey, Ivan Moore Research.

6. How can new programs and facilities be funded?

Which funding source would you most prefer to see used to fund new recreation and culture services in the Homer area?

Response	Percent	Number
Property taxes	12.2%	31
Sales tax	17.2%	44
Other taxes	18.3%	47
Reallocate existing funding from other municipal sources	25.0%	64
Don't fund new recreation and culture services at all	18.0%	46
Not sure	9.3%	24

Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Public Opinion Survey, Ivan Moore Research.

Reallocation

Current HART Fund Allocation

	<u>Roads</u> (.0075*.9 = .00675)	<u>Trails</u> (.0075*.1 = .00075)	<u>Total</u> (.0075%)
2012:	\$1,059,830	\$102,007	\$1,161,837
2013:	\$1,222,088	\$123,172	\$1,345,260
2014:	(projected) \$1,113,701	(projected) \$125,193	(projected) \$1,238,894
Current balance:	\$6,902,873	\$439,787	\$7,342,660

Hypothetical HART Fund Reallocation to Include Recreation

	<u>Roads</u> (.0075*.66*.9 = .0045%)	<u>Trails</u> (.0075*.66*.1 = .0005%)	<u>Recreation</u> (.0075*.33 = .0025%)	<u>Total</u> (.0075%)
2012:	\$690,131	\$76,681	\$383,406	\$1,161,837
2013:	\$812,537	\$88,787	\$443,936	\$1,345,260
2014:	\$735,903	\$81,767	\$408,835	\$1,238,894
Balance:	\$4,361,540	\$484,615	\$2,423,078	\$7,342,660

Service Area

Support for Recreation and Culture Service Area

Response	Percent	Number
Strongly favor	27.5%	71
Mildly favor	27.8%	72
Neutral	3.7%	9
Mildly oppose	17.7%	45
Strongly oppose	18.9%	49
Not sure	4.4%	11

Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Public Opinion Survey, Ivan Moore Research.

Multi-purpose Community Center

Support for City Funding New Multi-purpose Community Center

Response	Percent	Number
This is a desirable facility; it should be a priority within the next 5 years; and I would be willing to contribute to support its development.	30.1%	78
This is a desirable facility; it should be a priority 5-10 years from now, providing time for the community to grow and increase the tax base.	26.7%	69
This facility should not be a priority, and I would not be willing to contribute any amount of additional taxes to support its development.	39.2%	101
Not sure.	3.9%	10

Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Public Opinion Survey, Ivan Moore Research.

Kevin Bell Ice Hockey Arena

Support for City Funding Kevin Bell Ice Hockey Arena

Response	Percent	Number
The City should not put any funding into the building, even if this means the facility will close.	20.4%	52
The City should provide approximately \$10,000-\$15,000 per year in new funding to cover a portion of the loan, and the Homer Hockey Association should find the remaining funding.	53.6%	136
The City should pay the full \$60,000 per year loan payment, and fund this expenditure with tax revenues.	20.1%	51
Not sure.	5.9%	15

Source: 2014 Recreation and Culture Needs Assessment Public Opinion Survey, Ivan Moore Research.

Ambitious, Realistic and Strategic

- Recreation and culture are important to the Homer community.
- A number of future needs were identified and prioritized.
- People want to continue to invest in recreation and culture, have identified strategies and funding mechanisms for implementation.

Ambitious, **Realistic** and Strategic

- With a growing, active, aging population, the City is seeing a high demand for services and a potentially diminishing tax base.
 - PARC involves economic development: create new opportunities (jobs, business, industry), attract and retain residents, grow the tax base, increase discretionary income.
 - Collaboration among PARC providers brings new resources to the table.

Ambitious, Realistic and **Strategic**

1. Maximize the use of existing public resources.
2. Look for and take advantage of opportunities for the private sector to fill gaps.
3. Explore new ways to improve the efficiency and coordination of providing PARC resources and related information sharing.
4. Maintain existing facilities while developing funding strategies for highest priority future expansion or renewal projects.

Recommended Next Steps

Form an implementation team (City and PARC Committee) to continue working together to:

- Make improvements to event calendaring, advertising, space use, and other information-sharing.
- Fulfill identified needs that can be met with existing resources.
- Develop and carry out funding strategies, particularly for higher-cost PARC needs.
- Complete deferred maintenance and planned improvements to existing facilities.

COUNCIL REPORT

FOR THE 3 MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 2015

25 % OF THE FISCAL YEAR HAS ELAPSED

UNAUDITED REPORT - FOR ADMIN. USE ONLY

	YTD	Annual	State PERS	Adjusted	Adjusted	Adjusted	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Budgeted	YTD	Annual	Variance	25%
<u>3</u>	<u>03/31/15</u>	<u>(Amended)</u>		<u>03/31/15</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>		
		<u>12/31/15</u>			<u>12/31/15</u>		
GENERAL FUND							
GENERAL FUND REVENUE							
1	PROPERTY TAXES	37,497	3,118,636		37,497	3,118,636	3,081,139 1.2%
2	SALES & USE TAX	922,887	5,126,605		922,887	5,126,605	4,203,718 18.0%
3	PERMITS & LICENSES	6,745	35,600		6,745	35,600	28,855 18.9%
4	FINES & FORFEITURES	2,836	10,300		2,836	10,300	7,464 27.5%
5	USE OF MONEY	6,000	33,000		6,000	33,000	27,000 18.2%
6	REVENUES-OTHER AGENCIES	192,764	1,852,455	(630,058)	192,764	1,222,397	1,029,633 15.8%
7	CHARGES FOR SERVICES	25,341	503,900		25,341	503,900	478,559 5.0%
8	OTHER REVENUE	5,473	13,000		5,473	13,000	7,527 42.1%
9	AIRPORT REVENUES	30,734	96,900		30,734	96,900	66,166 31.7%
10	OPERATING TRANSFERS	1,382,738	1,382,738		345,685	1,382,738	1,037,054 25.0%
	General Fund Revenues	2,613,015	12,173,134	(630,058)	1,575,962	11,543,076	9,967,115 13.7%
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES							
ADMINISTRATION							
11	MAYOR - COUNCIL	259,636	567,253		259,636	567,253	307,617 45.8%
12	CITY CLERK	95,212	416,946	(28,093)	95,212	388,853	293,641 24.5%
13	CITY ELECTIONS	0	13,089		0	13,089	13,089 0.0%
14	CITY MANAGER	39,912	252,518	(23,893)	39,912	228,625	188,713 17.5%
15	PERSONNEL	36,701	162,745	(11,760)	36,701	150,984	114,283 24.3%
16	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	28,203	197,623	(12,132)	28,203	185,492	157,289 15.2%
17	INFORMATION SYSTEMS	99,141	299,380	(19,608)	99,141	279,772	180,631 35.4%
18	LEASED PROPERTY	12,458	59,762		12,458	59,762	47,304 20.8%
19	COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAM	38,800	138,138	(12,259)	38,800	125,879	87,079 30.8%
20	FINANCE	175,946	837,025	(63,692)	175,946	773,334	597,387 22.8%
21	PLANNING & ZONING	100,548	465,315	(33,963)	100,548	431,352	330,804 23.3%
22	CITY HALL	23,426	137,055		23,426	137,055	113,629 17.1%
		909,984	3,546,848	(205,398)	909,984	3,341,450	2,431,466 27.2%
	<i>General Fund expense - Continued on next page</i>						

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	YTD	Annual	State PERS	Adjusted	Adjusted	Adjusted	
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Budgeted	YTD	Annual	Variance	25%
3	03/31/15	(Amended)		03/31/15	BUDGET		
		12/31/15			12/31/15		
<i>General Fund expense - Continued</i>							
LIBRARY							
23	LIBRARY	171,420	954,685	(34,788)	171,420	919,897	748,477 18.6%
24	LIBRARY GRANT	4,588	6,650		4,588	6,650	2,062 69.0%
		176,008	961,335	(34,788)	176,008	926,547	750,539 19.0%
AIRPORT							
25	AIRPORT FACILITIES	64,464	222,743	(5,391)	64,464	217,352	152,887 29.7%
FIRE DEPARTMENT							
26	FIRE ADMINISTRATION	68,506	415,186	(20,972)	68,506	394,213	325,707 17.4%
27	FIRE SERVICES	61,993	322,489	(18,748)	61,993	303,741	241,748 20.4%
28	MEDICAL SERVICES	57,646	287,809	(18,668)	57,646	269,141	211,495 21.4%
		188,146	1,025,484	(58,388)	188,146	967,096	778,950 19.5%
POLICE DEPARTMENT							
29	POLICE ADMINISTRATION	76,031	648,630	(221,110)	76,031	427,520	351,489 17.8%
30	DISPATCH	154,689	652,762		154,689	652,762	498,072 23.7%
31	INVESTIGATION	62,861	268,803		62,861	268,803	205,942 23.4%
32	PATROL	264,977	953,291		264,977	953,291	688,314 27.8%
33	JAIL	153,711	809,857		153,711	809,857	656,147 19.0%
34	ANIMAL CONTROL	35,857	162,314		35,857	162,314	126,457 22.1%
		748,127	3,495,657	(221,110)	748,127	3,274,547	2,526,420 22.8%
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT							
35	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	47,793	285,864	(104,982)	47,793	180,882	133,089 26.4%
36	GENERAL MAINTENANCE	65,565	324,923		65,565	324,923	259,358 20.2%
37	GRAVEL ROADS	27,139	203,369		27,139	203,369	176,230 13.3%
38	PAVED ROADS	32,496	185,668		32,496	185,668	153,172 17.5%
39	WINTER ROADS	39,701	282,303		39,701	282,303	242,602 14.1%
40	PARKS - CEMETERY	37,589	422,823		37,589	422,823	385,234 8.9%
41	MOTOR POOL	105,694	515,397		105,694	515,397	409,703 20.5%
42	ENGINEERING INSPECTION	42,859	278,855		42,859	278,855	235,996 15.4%
43	JANITORIAL	33,678	168,018		33,678	168,018	134,339 20.0%
		432,514	2,667,220	(104,982)	432,514	2,562,238	2,129,723 16.9%
44	CONTRIBUTIONS	16,625	99,500	0	16,625	99,500	82,875 16.7%
45	LEAVE CASH OUT INT'L SRV FUND	139,522	139,522	0	139,522	139,522	0 100.0%
	General Fund Expenses	2,675,390	12,158,309	(630,058)	2,675,390	11,528,252	8,852,862 23.2%
	Revenues - Expenses (General Fund)	(62,375)	14,825	(0)	(1,099,428)	14,825	(1,114,253)

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	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Budgeted	YTD	Annual	Variance	25%
	03/31/15	12/31/15		03/31/15	12/31/15		
WATER / SEWER SPECIAL REVENUE							
WATER REVENUE							
46 PERS REVENUE	0	81,122	(81,122)	0	0	0	N/A
47 METER SALES RES	189,414	859,757		189,414	859,757	670,343	22.0%
48 METER SALES COM	233,152	1,009,280		233,152	1,009,280	776,128	23.1%
49 METER SALE IND	659	15,000		659	15,000	14,341	4.4%
50 CONNECTION FEES	2,675	15,000		2,675	15,000	12,325	17.8%
51 SERVICE & METERS	4,347	18,000		4,347	18,000	13,653	24.2%
52 PENALTY/INT	2,443	7,435		2,443	7,435	4,992	32.9%
53 OTHER MISCELLANEOUS	0	174,101		0	174,101	174,101	0.0%
54 TRANSFER	174,101	0		43,525	0	(43,525)	N/A
Water Revenue	606,792	2,179,694	(81,122)	476,216	2,098,573	1,622,357	22.7%
SEWER REVENUE							
55 PERS REVENUE	0	69,810	(69,810)	0	0	0	N/A
56 METER SALES RES	241,077	1,203,129		241,077	1,203,129	962,051	20.0%
57 METER SALES COM	89,288	467,883		89,288	467,883	378,595	19.1%
58 SERVICE&METER	1,630	9,000		1,630	9,000	7,370	18.1%
49s METER SALE IND	0	13,000		0	13,000		
59 RV DUMP STATION	0	2,500		0	2,500	2,500	0.0%
Sewer Revenue	331,995	1,765,322	(69,810)	331,995	1,695,512	1,350,517	19.6%
Water & Sewer Revenue Total	938,787	3,945,017	(150,932)	808,211	3,794,085	2,972,873	21.3%
WATER EXPENDITURES							
60 WATER SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION	430,144	604,294	(20,155)	430,144	584,139	153,994	73.6%
61 TREATMENT PLANT	66,584	502,561	(15,500)	66,584	487,062	420,478	13.7%
62 TESTING	10,231	56,708	(2,665)	10,231	54,043	43,813	18.9%
63 PUMP STATIONS	11,913	111,879	(3,080)	11,913	108,799	96,886	10.9%
64 DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS	57,719	280,644	(19,409)	57,719	261,235	203,517	22.1%
65 WATER RESERVOIR	9,479	60,896	(4,358)	9,479	56,538	47,059	16.8%
66 WATER METERS	25,848	188,296	(8,523)	25,848	179,774	153,926	14.4%
67 WATER HYDRANTS	36,071	174,101	(7,433)	36,071	166,668	130,597	21.6%
Water Expense	647,988	1,979,379	(81,122)	647,988	1,898,257	1,250,269	34.1%
Water Admin Fees To GF From line 60	(274,210)	(274,210)		(274,210)	(274,210)		
Other Transfers to (to Reserves)	(112,867)	(112,867)		(112,867)	(112,867)		
Adjusted YTD Water Expenses	260,911	1,592,302	(81,122)	260,911	1,511,180	1,250,269	17.3%
SEWER EXPENDITURES							
68 SEWER SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION	378,100	526,449	(20,040)	378,100	506,410	128,310	74.7%
69 SEWER PLANT OPERATIONS	129,997	530,442	(20,265)	129,997	510,176	380,179	25.5%
70 SEWER SYSTEM TESTING	13,907	76,049	(5,512)	13,907	70,537	56,630	19.7%
71 SEWER LIFT STATIONS	39,061	189,174	(12,121)	39,061	177,054	137,993	22.1%
72 COLLECTION SYSTEM	46,367	252,357	(11,873)	46,367	240,484	194,117	19.3%
Sewer Expense	607,432	1,574,471	(69,810)	607,432	1,504,661	897,229	40.4%
Sewer Admin Fees To GF From line 68	(214,191)	(214,191)		(214,191)	(214,191)		
Other Transfers to (to Reserves)	(120,618)	(120,618)		(120,618)	(120,618)		
Adjusted YTD Sewer Expenses	272,623	1,239,662	(69,810)	272,623	1,169,852	897,229	23.3%
Adjusted Water & Sewer EXPENSES Total	533,534	2,831,964	(150,932)	533,534	2,681,032	2,147,498	19.9%

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	YTD	Annual	State PERS	Adjusted	Adjusted	Adjusted	
3	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Budgeted	YTD	Annual	Variance	25%
	03/31/15	(Amended)		03/31/15	BUDGET		
		12/31/15			12/31/15		
PORT & HARBOR ENTERPRISE FUND							
PORT & HARBOR REVENUE							
73	PORT - HARBOR ADMINISTRATION	112,870	611,851	(134,811)	112,870	477,040	364,170 23.7%
74	HARBOR	235,620	2,488,130		235,620	2,488,130	2,252,510 9.5%
75	PIONEER DOCK	40,081	405,692		40,081	405,692	365,611 9.9%
76	FISH DOCK	56,534	800,132		56,534	800,132	743,598 7.1%
77	DEEP WATER DOCK	69,070	549,116		69,070	549,116	480,047 12.6%
78	OUTFALL LINE	4,800	4,800		4,800	4,800	0 100.0%
79	FISH GRINDER	0	12,000		0	12,000	12,000 0.0%
	Port & Harbor Revenue	518,975	4,871,721	(134,811)	518,975	4,736,910	4,217,936 11.0%
PORT & HARBOR EXPENDITURES							
80	PORT - HARBOR ADMINISTRATION	1,093,164	1,697,362	(134,811)	1,093,164	1,562,551	469,386 70.0%
81	HARBOR	247,169	1,293,487		247,169	1,293,487	1,046,318 19.1%
82	PIONEER DOCK	209,381	261,259		209,381	261,259	51,877 80.1%
83	FISH DOCK	196,555	691,760		196,555	691,760	495,205 28.4%
84	DEEP WATER DOCK	341,147	413,268		341,147	413,268	72,121 82.5%
85	OUTFALL LINE	2,917	8,917		2,917	8,917	6,000 32.7%
86	FISH GRINDER	7,357	29,300		7,357	29,300	21,943 25.1%
87	HARBOR MAINTENANCE	64,324	394,228		64,324	394,228	329,904 16.3%
88	MAIN DOCK MAINTENANCE	6,865	37,820		6,865	37,820	30,955 18.2%
89	DWD MAINTENANCE	6,865	44,320		6,865	44,320	37,455 15.5%
	Port & Harbor Expense	2,175,745	4,871,722	(134,811)	2,175,745	4,736,910	2,561,166 45.9%
	Port & HarborAdmin Fees To GF From line 80	(605,925)	(605,925)		(605,925)	(605,925)	
	Other Transfers to (to Reserves)	(1,017,166)	(1,017,166)		(1,017,166)	(1,017,166)	
	Depreciation Expenses	0	0		0	0	
	Adjusted YTD Port & Harbor Expenses	552,654	3,248,631	(134,811)	552,654	3,113,819	2,561,166 17.7%
Adj. Revenues - Expenses (Port & harbor)							
		(33,679)	1,623,091	0	(33,679)	1,623,091	1,656,770 



City of Homer

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov

Public Works

3575 Heath Street
Homer, AK 99603

publicworks@cityofhomer-ak.gov

(p) 907- 235-3170

(f) 907-235-3145

Memorandum 15-058

TO: Mary K. Koester, City Manager
FROM: Carey Meyer, Public Works Director
DATE: April 22, 2015
SUBJECT: **Spit Camp Fee Collection Building**

Again this winter, the Parks Department's campground fee collection building was damaged by storms. Again, significant erosion completely undermined the structure. In addition the piling supporting the building no longer provides adequate support. See attached photo.

Public Work is considering several options (currently Option 3 preferred):

- 1) **Repair** – Public Works could add support to the piling and place dredge spoils under and around the structure. This is what Public Works has been doing every year to return the facility to a safe condition. Cost - \$1,000 in pile support repair materials; 100 CY of dredge spoils imported (\$8,000) including City labor and equipment. *Total Cost = \$9,000.*

Advantages: Small capital expense.

Disadvantage: We will have to do it again next year.

- 2) **Move Building to New Site Across the Road** – Building could be moved to the Pier 1 theater site (away from further erosion impacts). Cost – Mobilize Crane, lift onto trailer, move across street, set on new foundation (\$12,000 for move, \$6,000 for foundation). Extend power and telephone; maybe water and sewer (\$20,000). *Total Cost = \$38,000.*

Advantages: Continues use of facility without yearly erosion repair.

Disadvantage: Significant cost

- 3) **Surplus the Building, Purchase/Build Movable Trailer** – Sell the building and have it removed from the site. Purchase/build a small fee collection trailer for use at Mariner Park (in conformance with the Mariner Park Flood Plain permanent structure elevation restrictions). Cost - Sell building (+\$5,000); Obtain trailer w/ generator (\$15,000). *Total Cost = \$10,000.*

Advantages: fee collection bldg could be located at Mariner Park. One time expense.

Disadvantage: No permanent structure, Change in fee collection location.





City of Homer

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Public Works

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Memorandum 15-059

TO: Mary K. Koester, City Manager
FROM: Carey Meyer, Public Works Director
DATE: April 22, 2015
SUBJECT: **Mental Health Land Trust – Spit Property Purchase**

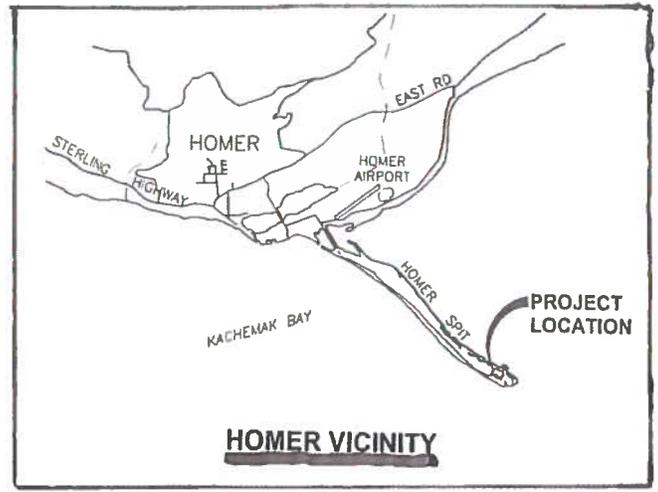
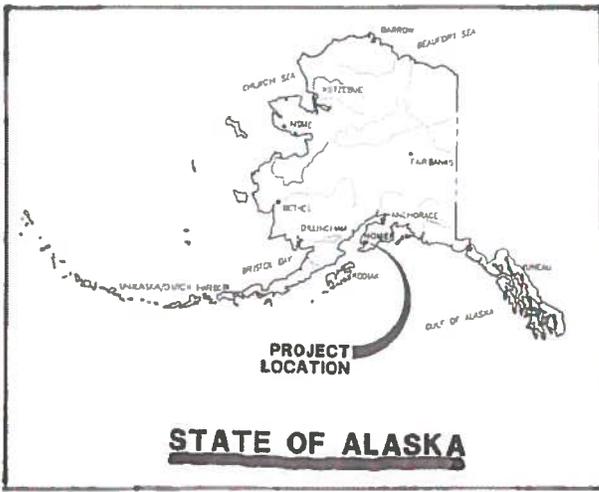
Attached are maps that show the Icicle Seafood Lease area, as it is currently platted, with the property owned by the Mental Health Land Trust superimposed.

The property in this area has been platted without consideration for Trust property ownership.

This issue came to light as Public Works investigated property ownership in the area (in preparation for obtaining an easement for the Coal Point Trail).

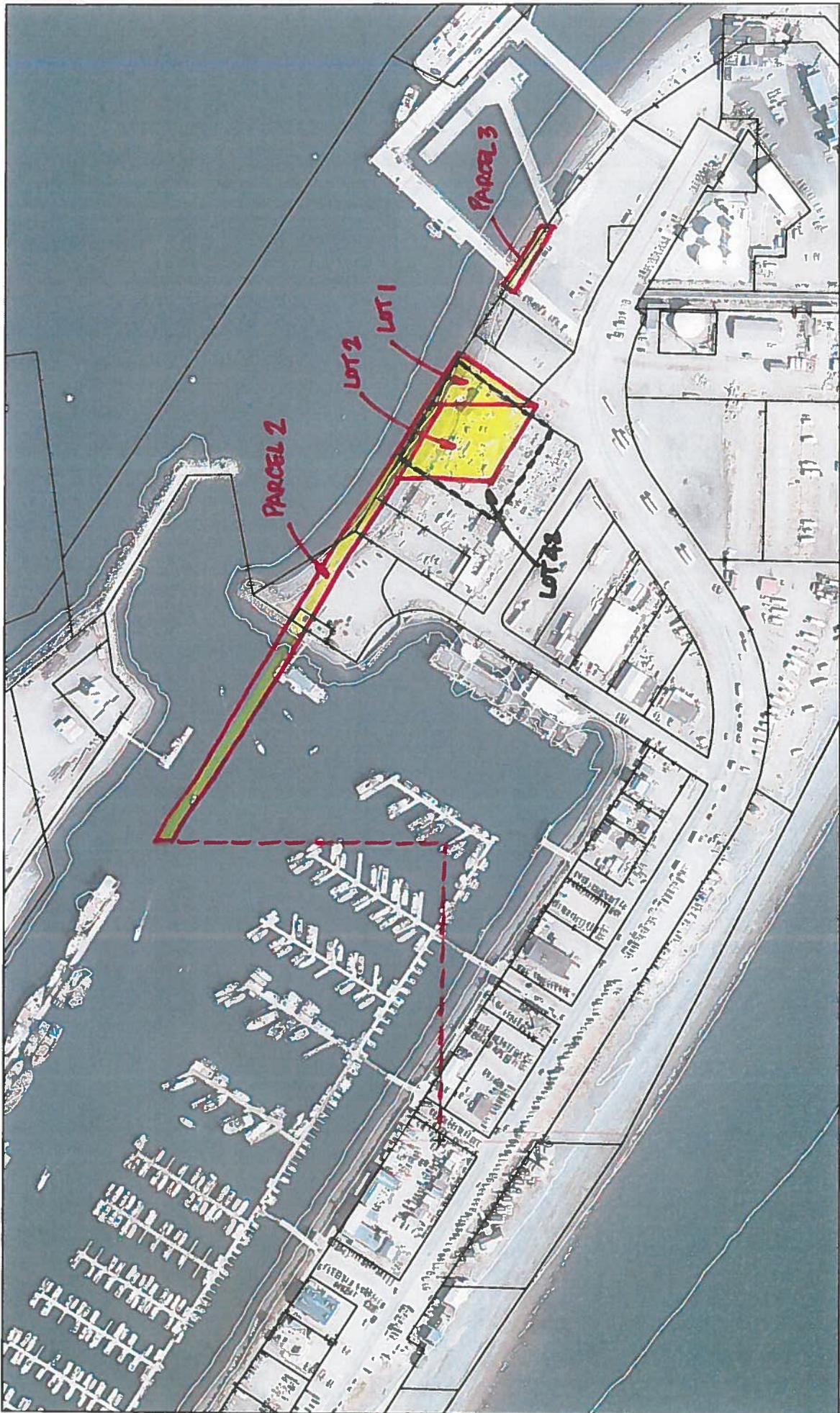
To resolve the issue, the City has proposed to purchase the Trust property to gain undisputed ownership of this block of lots. The Trust has agreed to pursue a negotiated price sale.

This area cannot be used to its highest and best use without resolving the ownership issue.



MAP
PROPOSED PROPERTY PURCHASE
 from
ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY
 by
THE CITY OF HOMER, ALASKA





1 inch = 200 feet

Re-envisioning the Homer Public Library's Western Lot

The Friends of the Homer Public Library's mission is to provide volunteer support for library programs and services, to raise funds that enrich the library experience and to promote the use and enjoyment of the library. FHL has a 9-member volunteer board plus honorary student member who work closely with library staff to publicize the valuable tools and services available at the library to all community members at no cost, without discrimination. Throughout the Friends' history, the organization has provided resources for capital improvements, including raising funds for the new building and outfitting it with items to enhance library patrons' experience, like children's book bins, lamps, benches, and e-readers. Now with the building and library programs and staff flourishing, the Friends is committed to making the entire library property a vibrant and safe part of the Homer community.

Western Lot

The City of Homer embarked on the New Library Project more than 10 years ago and set aside lots from Heath Street to the Poopdeck Trail, adjacent to Hazel Avenue, as the location of this civic anchor. The original design plans (see Figure 1) included park-like attributes for the western side of the City property. Due to funding considerations, only a gravel foot path was established to link the library's main parking lot to the Poopdeck Trail. Now in 2014, with increasing concern about safety along the existing foot path and adjacent Poopdeck Trail, the time is right to re-visit the potential of the library's western lot and ways to integrate it into the library mission and programs.



Figure 1. Design plans from 2004 for the New Library Project.

Goals

The Friends of the Homer Public Library propose the following as achievable and desirable goals as we re-envision the library's western lot:

1. increase safety by strategically thinning the vegetation to create better sight lines;
2. expand available space for existing library programs (story hour, summer reading program);
3. create potential space for new library programs (StoryWalk, storybook theater);
4. develop new partnerships with community entities who encourage the use of outdoor space;
5. provide a new community space within the city center; and
6. connect with neighbors interested in improving the Poopdeck Trail area to make it a community asset, not liability.

Why Now?

1. FHL staff and board have current capacity to take on a new project now that the library building has been up and running for 8 years.
2. FHL has available funds to get project planning started and a successful track record of grant and community fundraising.
3. Kachemak Heritage Land Trust is moving forward on a trail planning process through the NPS's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) to help them re-envision their property which is adjacent to the Poopdeck Trail.

Considerations

- City of Homer and library staff support
- Lot is mapped as upland wetlands. Need a wetlands assessment to identify drainage issues.
- How might this affect local neighbors and other stakeholders?
- Will there be ongoing maintenance, landscaping, lighting or signage costs?
- Who will manage/reserve space use?

Potential Design Features

expanded footpaths, picnic tables, benches, covered amphitheater, stage, lighting, exercise stations, statues, community art, StoryWalk infrastructure, additional parking, restrooms, greenhouse

Community Partners/Stakeholders

City of Homer's Police Department, Library Advisory Board and Parks and Recreation Department, Safeway, CIRI, Petro Marine, private property owners along Grubstake Ave, Kachemak Heritage Land Trust, MAPP of the Southern Kenai Peninsula, Best Beginnings Homer, Nature Rock's Homer, Colors of Homer, Pier 1 Theater, Homer-area schools.



City of Homer

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

April 14, 2015

The Homer Small Boat Harbor has lately been the beneficiary of several improvements that are designed to welcome cruise ship passengers to the Spit, but all tourists and the community as a whole have profited from new trails, restrooms, art work, shelter, overlooks, benches, banners, kiosks, and other pedestrian improvements.

The newest addition to the Spit, part of the City of Homer's 1% for art program, is the new "Circle Hook" sculpture. This sculpture (installed this week) is located at the intersection of Homer Spit Road and Freight Dock Road. It stands 13 feet high and is purported to be the largest fishing hook sculpture in the galaxy.

The sculpture was designed by Moose Run Metalsmiths of Homer, Alaska and it was fabricated by Bay Welding Services of Homer, Alaska. The project is funded by Cruise Ship Head Tax Revenues and the City's 1% for Art Program.

When you have a chance, stop by and take a look at the newest member of our community art exhibits.

